



The Office of Legislator Al Krupski

Suffolk County Legislator

1st District

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Legislator Al Krupski Makes Strides in Bringing Sustainable Meat Production to Suffolk County

After three years of working to open up a slaughterhouse in Suffolk County for use by local farmers, Legislator Al Krupski is optimistic the upcoming issuance of a Request for Expression of Interest (RFEI) by the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning will bring this much needed resource one step closer to becoming a reality.

The RFEI is meant to solicit recommendations from interested parties on how the county-owned slaughterhouse sited at the County Farm in Yaphank, which is a facility currently inaccessible to local farmers, can be upgraded to accommodate and promote sustainable and local meat production. The hope is the RFEI will generate interest and the recommendations received will lead the county to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to secure a vendor to do the necessary renovations and to operate the slaughter house on a long-term basis.

“This is one of the issues I started to tackle when I was first elected to the Suffolk County Legislator because as a farmer, I know how critically important meat processing is to the agricultural community, the economy of the East End and to food security on Long Island,” said Legislator Krupski. “As it stands, farmers must transport livestock to New York City or out of the state to be slaughtered. This is an added expense most farmers can ill afford and serves a deterrent to those who might consider meat production.”

Increasingly, farmers are turning to raising livestock as people become more aware of the farm to table movement and the health and environmental benefits of eating locally grown food.

According to Legislator Krupski, the idea of a local slaughterhouse facility open to local farmers couldn't have gotten to this point without the help and expertise of Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Suffolk County. “I want to thank CCE for their invaluable input and support as well as the Department of Economic Development and Planning. I especially want to thank County Executive Steve Bellone for his support on this project and his consistent support of agriculture in Suffolk County.”

“I applaud Legislator Krupski for his steadfast advocacy on behalf of the agricultural community,” said County Executive Steve Bellone. “By issuing the RFEI we are bringing the region one step closer to making this infrastructure available for commercial production which would be a great economic boost for the small but growing livestock industry in Suffolk County.”

The RFEI will be issued on Thursday, January 14 with a tour of the facility scheduled for Thursday, January 28, 2016. Responses are due back to the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning by March 1. Those interested in obtaining a copy of the RFEI can do so by visiting www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Business/AgriculturalandFishing.aspx or by calling (631) 853-4714.

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